

Harford County Commission on Disabilities

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Meeting Minutes March 27, 2006

Attendance:

Members Present:

Bob Coen
Buddy Green
Kathy Halliday
Joan Loftus
Marc Weinstein

Members Absent:

Susan Austin
Debbie Braam
Angela Barnett
Councilman Dion Guthrie
Stacey Hull
Gilbert Kennedy
Laurie Kwiedorowicz
Rhia Perry

- I. Chairperson Buddy Green called the meeting to order at 5:05 p.m. Commission members and visitors introduced themselves.
- II. Minutes: The minutes of the February 27, 2005 Commission meeting were approved as presented.
- III. Committee Reports:
 - A. Executive Committee: Membership: Vacancies exist in the following categories:
 - A county citizen who owns or operates a local business or who is an employee of a local business;
 - Individuals representing agencies serving individuals with disabilities;
 - A student representative

Striving for a Better Way of Life for Harford County Citizens with Disabilities



- B. Accessibility Committee:
 - 1. Ramps for Homeowners and Renters Program: The Commission approved a recommendation by the committee to explore issuing a Request for Proposals (RFP) to community-based non-profits and faith-based organizations to administer the program.
 - 2. Housing Coalition: No new information.
- C. Education Committee: The Expo for Individuals with Disabilities was held on March 18th at the New Life Center of the Mountain Christian Church on Mountain Road in Joppa. Nearly 100 citizens attended the event which featured workshops and exhibits of community-based service providers. Feedback on the event was very positive.
- D. Government and Community Relations Committee:
 - 1. Commission web page: Visit the Commission web page to see this month's "Spotlight on Services" on the Disability Navigator Program. Chairperson Bob Coen recommended developing a survey to obtain input about what information visitors would like to access at the site.
 - 2. Legislative Committee: A Legislative Review prepared by Legislative Chairperson Laurie Kwiedorowicz was distributed to Commission members and discussed.

IV. Disabilities Coordinator Report: No report.

V. Old Business:

- A. Transportation Steering Committee:
 - 1. As reported earlier, a team from Harford County has been selected to attend Easter Seals Project Action Mobility Planning Services Institute, April 22-25, 2006 in Washington, DC. Team members include: Commission member Joan Loftus; Cheryl Gable, Mobility Trainer/Coordinator; Angie Kading, Chief Dispatcher, Harford Transit; Gail Fricke, Vocational Services Director, the Arc Northern Chesapeake Region; and Pat Parker, Job Developer, Alliance, Inc.

2. The Mobility Trainer/Coordinator is now providing travel training 35 hours weekly. More than 20 individuals with disabilities have been successfully trained to use Harford Transit buses to travel to employment. As part of a Systems Change Grant from the Division of Rehabilitation Services, presentations on travel training will be made to agencies/organizations which provide services to individuals with disabilities.
 - B. Emergency Preparedness: No new information.
 - C. Updating Commission on Disabilities Brochure: No new information.
 - D. Harford County Public Library (HCPL) Assistive Technology Open House and Fair: Commissioner Joan Loftus and Disabilities Coordinator Sharon Grzanka are working with HCPL staff to plan an event for October 2006. The open house will highlight the library's accessible hardware and software and will invite exhibitors to showcase assistive technology. More information to follow.
- VI. New Business: There was none.
- VII. Public Comment and Announcements: Kevin Racine, who is Vice Chair of the Transit Riders Action Council, discussed regional transportation issues.
- VIII. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 5:40 p.m. The next meeting of the Commission will be held on Monday, April 24, 2006 at 5:00 p.m. at the historic "Bel Air Colored High School".

The meeting was followed by the Maryland Division of Rehabilitation Services Public Input Meeting.

These minutes are available in alternative format upon request.